

Office of Licensing NEWS

Medication Administration Training

February 9, 2007

We have received many calls and inquiries about changes in the medication administration training required of direct care staff. Legislation passed during FY 05 requires Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) to register medication administration aides through the Department of Health Professions (DHP). To be registered, these aides must satisfactorily complete a 64-hour training course. They become then subject to investigation and loss of registration by DHP, which would preclude them from administering medication in an ALF. The requirements for DHP registration and training through the 64-hour curriculum do not apply to staff administering medications in DMHMRSAS licensed facilities.

The ALF Medication Aide registration requirement becomes effective July 1, 2007, and individuals will have a year to complete the requirements. Those registered will be listed on the DHP web site. When individuals apply to work for you in the future, you could check the web site to determine if they have been disciplined or lost their registration.

DMHMRSAS licensed facilities will continue to use the 32-hour approved Board of Nursing medication administration curriculum as they have in the past. Providers will also be able to accept the Medication Aide registration for ALFS as proof of training as well.

The Board of Nursing must approve any curriculum used in DMHMRSAS licensed services. The Board of Nursing requires at least a 24-hour training curriculum; however, it has only approved a 32-hour curriculum for use in DMHMRSAS licensed services. Since the current curriculum used was developed for ALFs, we understand there may be interest in developing a more relevant curriculum. We would support development of curriculum that is more oriented toward the population DMHMRSAS licensed providers serve. It would have to be approved by the Board of Nursing. Should you have any additional questions, please contact your licensing specialist.